

Application No.: 09/051,547
Amendment dated: July 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of: May 21, 2003

MDA-2570US
(formerly MTS-2570US)

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3-15, 20, 21 and 24-31 are pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the opportunity to discuss the claims and for his helpful suggestions on June 11, 2003.

Section 103 Rejections

All pending claims stand rejected as being obvious in view of Lane and Clapp. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 1 now includes features which are not anticipated or suggested by the cited references, namely:

- a picture coding apparatus including picture coding means of coding pictures and providing a picture identifier for each picture as an I, P or B picture,
- priority providing means of correlating each coded picture with a priority identifier which assigns a priority level to one or more frames of the coded pictures; and
- transmission control means of transmitting ... coded pictures with the priority identifiers
- a picture decoding apparatus including reception control means of receiving or reading the coded pictures with the priority identifiers,
- wherein each priority identifier is used by the picture decoding apparatus to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture decoding apparatus, and
- each priority identifier is used independently of the picture identifiers,

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- and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture,
and
- **a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on
the priority identifier.**

As discussed in the previous response to the Office Action, mailed on February 25, 2003, the invention, as recited in claim 1, provides a priority identifier with each picture. A determination is made by the picture decoding apparatus whether a picture is to be processed or not be processed according to the load or the processing capacity of the picture decoding apparatus and according to the level of importance assigned to a picture in the priority identifier. As also discussed in the previous response, claim 1 further recites **both a priority identifier and a picture identifier. The priority identifier is used independently of the picture identifier, and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture.**

Applicants have now further limited claim 1 by reciting that **a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on the priority identifier.** Basis for a decision to discard or not discard a picture based on the priority identifier may be found in the specification, for example, at page 12, line 20, to page 13, line 7.

The Office Action, at page 6, admits that Lane does not disclose the limitation of "determining whether each picture should be processed or not processed according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture decoding apparatus, and each priority identifier is used independently of the picture identifiers and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture." The Office Action states, however, that Clapp teaches the concept of determining whether frames should be discarded or not discarded based on maintaining sync.

Clapp discloses the concept of discarding frames to maintain sync. Clapp at column 8, lines 56-66, discloses a first alternative for discarding frames. In the first alternative, Δt is determined (Δt is the time between data entering the encoder buffer and the time data is leaving the decoder buffer). Depending on the value of Δt , a frame is repeated or a frame is discarded. At column 9, lines 25-33, Clapp discloses a second alternative for repeating or discarding a frame, based on an equation that predicts the value of Δt .

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Clapp, thus, discloses making a decision to discard or not discard a frame based on the time, Δt . Clapp, however, does not disclose or suggest making a decision to discard or not discard a frame based on a priority identifier, as recited. Claim 1 is now also distinguishable from Clapp. Favorable reconsideration is requested for amended claim 1.

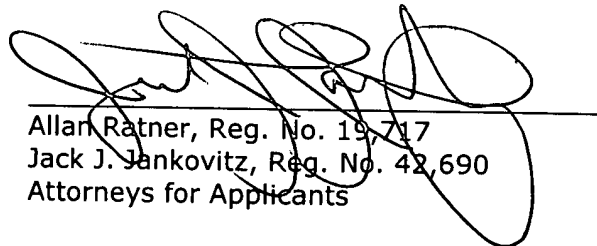
Although not the same, claims 20, 21, 25 and 27-29 have also been amended to recite features similar to amended claim 1. Previously amended claim 24 also includes features similar to claim 1. Reconsideration of these claims, as well as their dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 3-15, 20, 21 and 24-31 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia



Allan Ratner, Reg. No. 19,717
Jack J. Jankovitz, Reg. No. 42,690
Attorneys for Applicants

JJJ/fp/kc

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Suite 301
One Westlakes, Berwyn
P. O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

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